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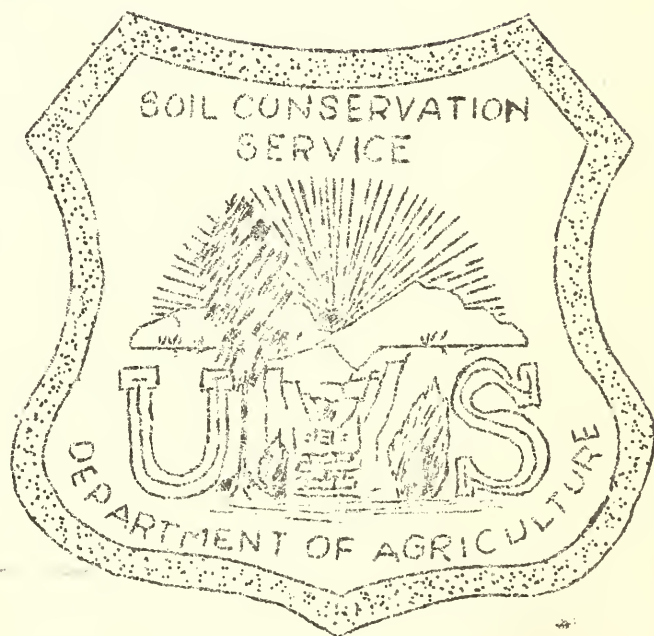
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BANISTER RIVER BANNER

PROJECT 22 DANVILLE, VIRGINIA

BANISTER RIVER AREA
SANDY RIVER AREA
APPOMATTOX AREA

SEPTEMBER
1935



FORESTRY DEPARTMENT

WILD LIFE CONSERVATION

The Soil Conservation Service is interested in the preservation of and the increasing of wild life on the areas included in the projects and those adjacent to the projects.

We are attempting to organize game management areas of at least 1,000 acres and more, if possible, in continuous blocks.

The land owner or owners are requested to agree to restrict hunting for a period of five years. He is also to protect and preserve the wild life on the area insofar as possible.

The Soil Conservation Service will plant on these areas trees and shrubs that produce fruit suitable for wild life. Such plantings will be done on locations or at places where it will not interfere with use of land by the owner.

The Soil Conservation Service will attempt to secure and have liberated on the areas suitable wild life.

Before the expiration of the five year period, a game survey will be made to determine the amount of wild life on the area and also the amount that this same area will carry under normal conditions, the difference or surplus will be for the land owner to dispose of and the survey will suggest the best method of disposal that the owner may reap the largest profit from hunting rights on the area. The best method so far is that of charging hunters at a rate, to be determined, for each type of game killed. By reserving or keeping on the area a certain amount of stock, for reproduction purposes, there is no reason why each hunting season thereafter should not have a surplus that can be disposed of at a profit to the land owner.

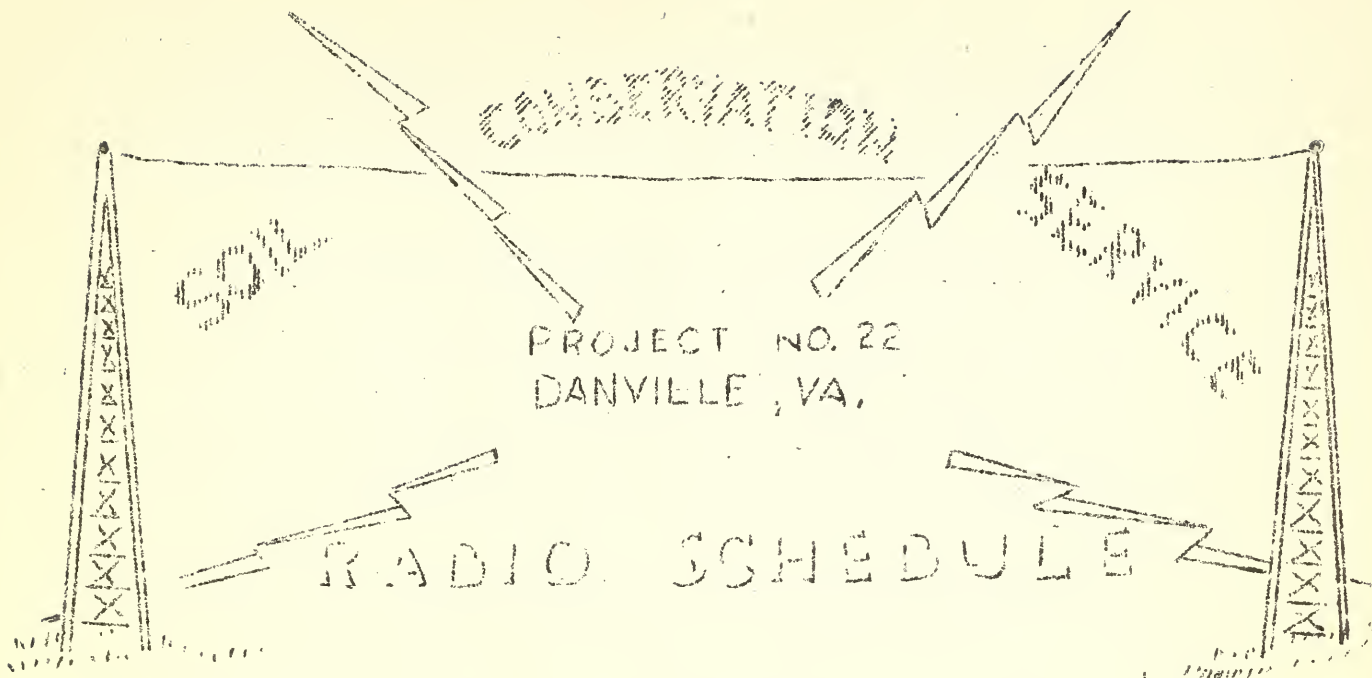
If you are interested in the game management for your land, get in touch with the Contact Agent for the Soil Conservation Service working your area, and he can sign your land up, if it is at all suitable.

Game management areas can be made up by any number of land owners, but the place to be successful should total 1,000 acres and more if possible.

PLANT TREES ON YOUR FARM

Farm woodlands furnish an essential portion of the farm output. If properly cared for, the woods will furnish at all times a convenient supply of timber, fencing and the like for home use, and at intervals will yield valuable material for markets. By far the greater number of our farm woods are in need of improvement. Correction of existing conditions can be secured through the judicious use of the axe, by securing natural reproduction, by the exclusion of stock from at least a portion of the woods, and through planting or sowing.

The Forestry Department will assist cooperators in restocking their woodlands and reforesting worn out lands.- Go over your farm today and notify us if you have lands suitable for forest planting.



STATION W.B.T.M., DANVILLE, VA., FARM BULLETIN HOUR 1:00 P. M.

- September 3, 1935 - "Contour Rotation and Soil Conservation",
by Charles E. Smith, Technical Foreman,
Rustburg, Virginia.
- September 10, 1935 - "Gullies and Gully Control", by Jack Moses,
Junior Foreman, R.F.D., Lynchburg, Va.
- September 17, 1935 - "Results of Soil Erosion - An Example", by
Wm. E. Patten, Camp Engineer, Appomattox,
Virginia.
- September 24, 1935 - "The Farm Management Phase of Soil Con-
servation", by C. E. Koontz, Technical
Foreman (Technician in Farm Management),
R.F.D., Lynchburg, Virginia.

STATION W.R.V.A., RICHMOND, VIRGINIA, - 2:30 to 2:45 P. M.

- September 5, 1935 - "Preventing and Controlling Gullies", by
J. D. Swann, Camp Engineer, Ashland, Va.
- September 12, 1935 - "Some of the Engineering Practices used in
Conservation of the Soil", by Wm. B. Wing-
field, Technical Foreman, Berea, Virginia.
- September 26, 1935 - "The Use of Vegetative Growth in the Soil
Conservation Program", by Edward F. Moser,
Technical Foreman, (Technician in Farm
Management), Berea, Virginia.

SOILS DEPARTMENT

Field observations show that vast differences exist in the erodibility of different soil types, and that these differences are due mainly to the physical character of the soil. Furthermore, soils having a deep sandy surface soil are always found to be much less erosive than those soils having shallow sandy surfaces.

A deep sandy surface layer allows rapid absorption and downward penetration of our average rainfall, thus causing less runoff.

The subsoil of any soil type is also of extreme importance in the erosiveness of that particular soil, where again a loose, friable subsoil will allow downward movement of percolating waters and minimize runoff. Subsoils that are of heavy, clayey material naturally prohibit rapid percolation of water and such ground water movements are then lateral and destructive in way of soil washing.

The following table shows the proposed classification of the soils of the Banister River Watershed, as regards their erosiveness.

| GROUP | SOIL SERIES | DEGREE OF EROSIVENESS |
|-------|-------------|-----------------------|
| A | Granville | Very Slight |
| | Durham | Very Slight |
| B | Appling | Slight |
| C | Cecil | Medium |
| | Madison | Medium |
| | Wadesboro | Medium |
| | Altavista | Medium |
| D | Penn | Severe |
| | Lehigh | Severe |
| | Louisa | Severe |
| | Wickham | Severe |
| E | White Store | Very Severe |
| | Davidson | Very Severe |
| | Iredell | Very Severe |
| | Wilkes | Very Severe |

Erosion control practices should vary with the soils occurring in each group. The soils in group "E" are assumed to be at least five times as erosive as those soils in group "A".

This classification of erosiveness in soils should be carefully considered by farmers, engineers, agronomists, soil conservationists and foresters when farm management planning is under consideration. For example, and where practical, the spacing of terraces, of strip cropping and forestry planting should be at closer intervals on the more erosive soil than on the less erosive soils.

EROSION CONTROL WITH THE AID OF ECW CAMPS

One of the greatest evils confronting the American farmer today and particularly the farmers in the southeast, is soil erosion or soil washing. Gully and sheet erosion is damaging the farms in the United States to the extent of approximately \$400,000,000 annually by removing billions of tons of rich and fertile topsoil from cultivated fields and pasture lands.

In an effort to check and prevent erosion on the valuable farm lands throughout the Nation, the Emergency Conservation Work has allotted 570 CCC Camps to the Soil Conservation Service, a branch of Government Service established under the United States Department of Agriculture, for the purpose of combating this devastating menace of our priceless topsoil.

Of the 570 Soil Conservation Service Camps now operating throughout the entire United States, thirteen (13) are located in the Old Dominion. These Camps have recently been established in the following counties, namely; Franklin, Henry, Campbell, Halifax, Mecklenburg, Dinwiddie, Bedford, Appomattox, Stafford, Hanover, Nottoway and two in Pittsylvania.

Although the activities of the Soil Conservation Service are restricted at the present time to the approved watershed areas of approximately 25,000 acres in each of the above mentioned counties, there is every reason to believe that the Camp work crews will be allowed to operate within an economical radius of fifteen (15) miles from each Camp in a few months, which means that over 5,000,000 acres of Virginia soil will be directly benefited by this gigantic program of soil saving which has been instituted by the United States Government.

The work of primary importance which the erosion specialists, engineers, agronomists, soil experts and CCC Enrollees are engaged at the present time on private lands consist of the construction of temporary and permanent soil check dams in eroded gullies; sloping and seeding gully and State Highway banks; mulching, seeding and shingling small gullies and bare areas in pastures; the design and construction of diversion ditches, terraces and terrace outlets with the cooperation of the land owners and county agents; forest thinning, sloping, grading, and seeding stream banks, laying off cultivated fields for strip crops and contour furrowing; designing and supervising the construction of pasture furrows; working out simple four and five year crop rotations with the land owner; removing steep badly eroded fields from cultivation and putting them back into woods or permanent pastures and many other phases of erosion control work too numerous to mention.

The above stated work is accomplished only after the land owners have agreed to cooperate with the Soil Conservation Service for a period of five years.

* * * * *

From the Regional Offices at Danville comes the announcement that branch offices of the Soil Conservation Service have been established at Lynchburg, for administration of the Appomattox Demonstration Area and the nearby camp project areas.

FARM MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

During the past year farmers have been thinking of their farms as a business. These farmers are looking ahead and, instead of following a haphazard system, they are laying out their farms on the basis of a five year plan. The Soil Conservation Service has established thirteen individual units in Virginia, and, since the 1st. of September, through these units the Conservationists have assisted the farmer in rearranging plans on 175 different farms.

A system of rotation of crops suitable to the needs of the farmers is recommended as a substitute for the one year crop system. Terracing of certain fields, and the removal of badly eroded and gullied fields from cultivation. Further erosion of these fields removed from cultivation is prevented by planting to grasses, trees and shrubs or to other soil binding crops. In other words, the farmers of today realize that erosion prevention on their land will not only enrich their own lives but will also leave to posterity an ample heritage of rich soils and happy homes.

AGRONOMY DEPARTMENT

The cool nights are reminding us that jack frost is not far away and that our crops must soon be harvested. There is one crop, however, that very few of us have harvested, that crop is Lespedeza. True, we have been mowing the hay from this crop and allowing it to reseed, but why not mow your Lespedeza this fall after frost has killed its foliage and thrash out some seed to use on your other fields? If your acreage is too small to justify having it thrashed you may save enough for your needs thru the use of a "Lespedeza Seed Pan" which can be attached behind the cutter bar of your mower. The seed may be saved very successfully at any time until Christmas, or even later. The saving, however, should be done when the Lespedeza is dry since the amount of seed saved depends on how easily the seed shatter. For those of you who may not have a seed pan, or cannot borrow one, they can be purchased at a small cost and will be serviceable for a long period, if properly taken care of.

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

An effort is being made to use meadow strips wherever possible instead of the structure controlled channels on the smaller slopes. For observation purposes, meadow strips have been constructed on slopes up to nine per cent. However, all indications are that the meadow strip will not be practical on slopes over six per cent. Proper preparation of meadow strips is very essential in that the draw in a field used as a meadow strip must be graded down practically flat, eliminating all concentration points and obstructions that might divert the water and cause concentration. Temporary diversion ditches are cut around the meadow strip area. These temporary ditches are also utilized as temporary terrace outlet channels, where the field is terraced.

After the meadow strip is graded a good seed bed is prepared, lime, fertilizer and manure applied, and seeded to hay mixture. When the sod is sufficiently established the terraces can be constructed through the temporary ditches and the water outletted on the meadow strip.

The meadow strip serves a duo-fold purpose in that it serves not only as a waterway for the terrace system, but also as a source of hay crop. The cost of construction and seeding is only about twenty per cent^{of} that of the structure controlled terrace outlet channel.

FARM PROFITS ARE NOT JUST LUCK



Each year, on many farms, there is no profit. There are a number of reasons why this is so. One that is often overlooked is the condition of the soil.

IS IT SO ACID THAT IT IS REDUCING CROP YIELDS?

An acid soil is a "sick" soil, and the only way to make it "well" is by correcting the acidity with lime. This will help make other plant food elements more available and fertilizers more efficient. It will make the soil more "congenial" to legumes which add nitrogen and humus - put "life" into the land.

Your County Agent will test your soil and tell you if it needs lime. And the fall is a splendid time to put it on.

UNITED STATES

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300

DANVILLE, VIRGINIA

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Mr. Wellington Brink, Editor
The Land Today and Tomorrow
Soil Conservation Service
Standard Oil Bldg
3rd and Constitution Ave.
Washington, D. C.

Mr 2300